

Effects of Multiple Sclerosis Often More Crippling than Polio

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Los Angeles County Health Officer

If a person's life depended on it, he could in all probability learn to wiggle his ears quite freely. Through concentration and months of practice he might learn to push nerve impulses through to the muscles that control the ears.

This statement was made by a woman who was attempting to regain the use of leg muscles which she could no longer control because of damage to the connecting nerves. She was a victim of multiple sclerosis.

Whether or not her comparison of unused nerves to damaged nerves is an accurate one, it does point out quite clearly the difficulty of re-learning muscular control which most of us take for granted when we perform such every day feats as walking, writing, or brushing our teeth.

Called M. S.

Multiple sclerosis, or M. S. as it is called by those who suffer from it, is a chronic disease in which hard patches appear in the brain or spinal cord causing interference with the nerve pathways to the muscles. Although its cause is unknown, it is a close relative of poliomyelitis.

It attacks fewer people, but its effects are usually more crippling than those of polio. It is estimated that 250,000 people in the United States have M. S.

The symptoms of the disease are varied, and diagnosis is difficult especially in the early stages. Some of the better known signs are double vision, tremor, personality disturbances, gradual numbness of the arms and legs, and finally, in some cases, complete uselessness of the muscles. In several cases, a staggering gait has led to false charges of drunkenness. It has been noted also that many victims have an unrealistic tendency to look at the world through rose-colored glasses. The disease is not contagious, and it usually appears between the ages of 20 and 40. Fortunately, some people are only slightly affected and go through life without serious difficulty.



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CHECKS WARNING DEVICE . . . George Powell, assistant director of Civil Defense for Torrance, checks the "Bell and Light" alerting signal recently placed in the Torrance Police Station. The system has also been installed in the Walteria Fire Station and the North Torrance Fire Station. Similar devices are soon to be installed in most of the city's major industries. The alert is given at Civil Defense headquarters in Los Angeles.

Lt. Vernon Fierce Ends General Line Courses

Recently graduated from the Navy's General Line School at Monterey, Calif., was Lt. Vernon R. Fierce Jr., USN, son of Mrs. Eva M. Fierce of 2363 El Dorado St. and husband of the former Miss Ina E. Newkirk of Long Beach.

Lt. Fierce's next assignment will be aboard the attack carrier USS Bataan. During the nine-month course, the students receive advanced instruction in electrical and naval engineering, mathematics, ordnance, tactics, administration, leadership, navigation, military law, combat information center, anti-submarine warfare, damage control and communications.

NEW PROCESS
The Department of Agriculture has developed a new process to stabilize gun cotton in about one-third the usual time.

FIRST TRAIN
The first excursion train of the Santa Fe Railroad reached Las Vegas, New Mexico, in 1879, helping to open new territory.

'Bell and Light' Warning Installed

Only one swift spin of a special four-color dial is now needed to flash an air raid alert simultaneously to Torrance and 56 other cities of Los Angeles and Orange counties.

Activation recent of the new warning system, known as "Bell and Lights," was announced by Ernest S. Dixon, regional coordinator for the State Office of Civil Defense. The system has been installed and will be maintained by the Office of Civil Defense, Dixon said.

Developed by Bell Telephone Laboratories at the request of the Federal Civil Defense Administration, "Bell and Lights" takes the place of the slower private telephone line alerting procedure used during World War II.

Dial Locked
A four-color dial, kept under lock and key to prevent accidental flashing of an alert, has been placed at Civil Defense control dial headquarters in this region. It is connected by one-way telephone circuits with all of the regional Civil Defense organizations.

The dial's four colors are yellow, to indicate the approach of unidentified aircraft; red, to signal an imminent attack; white, to denote all clear, and blue, which is reserved for possible later use if another alerting signal becomes necessary.

Each city in the system is equipped with a Bell and Lights signal box which will indicate both visually and audibly the

flashing of an alert or an all clear signal. The system is being tested daily, so that Civil Defense officials in every city and at the regional control center on Mt. Lee will know whether Bell and Lights are in working order.

If the "real thing" ever occurs, the alert will be received at control dial headquarters from the Air Defense Command and will go forth instantaneously to all Bell and Lights users.

The warning system is available to schools, utilities, hospitals, industry and government agencies.

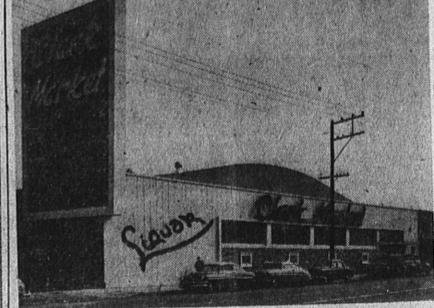
Final Rites Held Tuesday For Falconer

Funeral services for Robert Burns Falconer, 93, of 3431 Newton St., were held at the Stone and Myers Chapel Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Falconer died at his home Sunday.

A native of Covington, Ky., he had lived here with his daughter, Mrs. E. A. Altizer, for the past three years. He also leaves a daughter, Mrs. Besie Yeager, in Oregon, and a son, Thomas O. Falconer, in Puente, Calif., and another son, Lewis O. Falconer, in Oregon.

Following services conducted by Rev. C. M. Northrup of the First Baptist Church, the body was shipped to Astoria, Oregon.

INSULATION VALUE
Insulation value of three inches of wool is said to be greater than 12 inches of common brick or 20 inches of concrete, according to recent laboratory experiments.



DOWN GO FOOD PRICES . . . Prices on hundreds of items will hit a new low Jan. 8, 9, 10, and 11 during Clark's Market four-day January sale. Bargains by the basket oad will be offered thrifty-minded shoppers at Clark's Crenshaw and Compton Blvds. store as well as all four other Clark Markets. The sale is store-wide and features nationally-advertised brands.

Fact-Finders

(Continued From Page 1)
to vote capital improvement funds for enlargement of the college. Although Mayor Schwab did not ask the commission to make a recommendation based on its findings there is nothing to prevent the commission from offering a recommendation either for or against the annexation.

The mayor said Tuesday that it was his intention that the commission only probe for the facts and then present them to the City Council and to allow the Council the privilege of evaluating the findings.

Chairman Lloyd, a zoning authority retained by the city, is to call a meeting of the newly-organized commission in the near future.

All other members of the commission serve gratuitously. The mayor indicated that based on what knowledge he now has of the proposed annexation, he would not be in favor of the move. However, he stated:

"If the facts presented by the commission indicate it would be a wise move on the part of Torrance, I'll certainly fight for it."



READY . . . Richard J. Peterson, Lt. (jg) USN, is set to climb into his Panther jet for an early morning strike over Korea. Peterson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albin Peterson, 3325 Newton St., is serving aboard the attack carrier USS Kearsarge off the east coast of Korea. The Kearsarge is part of the U. S. Seventh Fleet. Peterson is a member of Fighter Squadron 721, popularly known as the "Star-busters." (U.S. Navy photo).

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THE SEASONAL CHANGE
Even in warm climates, where winter never comes, or touches lightly now and then, women like to observe the seasons with a change of dress. Why not do the same with your furniture? It can make a lot of difference! In summer, cool colors should dominate the room, and furniture should be spaced far enough apart to allow full circulation of air. But in fall and winter, warm, bright colors take over in furniture and draperies. Furniture should be rearranged into intimate, cozy and conversational groups to give that cherished "lived-in" look. This seasonal change in color and harmony gives you twice as much wear from draperies and slip-covers.

If your room boasts a fireplace, you can add still further to the warmth and charm by grouping a few comfortable pieces of furniture around it. The above illustration concerns itself with a room all dressed for winter. You can be equally charming when you couple these ideas with your individual touch and expression. Let us help you to use your own ideas to the fullest. Drop in and talk over your problems with us. We're always glad to be of assistance to our many friends.

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Gamble-Skogmo Declares Quarterly Dividends

The directors of Gamble-Skogmo, Inc., yesterday declared the regular quarterly dividend of 62½ cents per share on the \$50 par 5 per cent cumulative preferred stock and also a 15-cent per share dividend on the common stock, both dividends to be payable on Jan. 31 to stockholders of record at close of business on Jan. 16.

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